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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/822,617

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Mark A. Weiss

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EXAMINER

LETT, THOMAS J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/822,617

Applicant(s)

WEISS, MARK A.

Examiner

THOMAS J. LETT

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 10-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 10-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 16 February 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Examiner has clarified the location of the amended blank region and marginal with a marked-up drawing on page 6 of this communication.

Applicant argues that the prior art does not teach that the blank area and the color bars cover the whole sheet. The prior art shows other data on the sheet that is not blank or a color bar (box for test information and elements 3 and 4 in figure 1, elements 3a and 4a in figure 2).

Examiner responds that the blank region is located where the "lady images" 2 in figure 1 and 2A in figure 2 will be printed, and see col. 9-10. Chalmers et al also disclose that the master/test sheet may (emphasis added) additionally carry image registration symbols (e.g., 3, 3A, 4, 4A and a box for test information), see col. 1, lines 51-55.

Applicant further argues that *"there is no use of a proof in Chalmers. The process in Chalmers is used to adjust a printing engine, not to determine if a proof is made that meets industry standards. Since there is no proof used or created in Chalmers, neither the master sheet nor the test sheet (with or without the master sheet image printed thereon) are proofing paper. Thus, no "proofing paper" is provided in Chalmers, as required by the present claims. Stated simply, FIG. 1 of Chalmers merely shows a reference image that is to be printed as part of the calibration process. The reference image in FIG. 1 includes both color bars 1 and color pictures 2. FIG. 1 is not a sheet of proofing paper"*.

Examiner reads proofing paper as Chalmers' paper used for visual inspection. A proof is known in the art to be version of a document or color illustration produced specifically for the purpose of review prior to reproduction. A proof is also known in the art as a test sheet made to reveal errors or flaws, predict results on press and record how a printing job is intended to appear when finished. Chalmers et al satisfy the claim.

The teaching of Chalmers et al is the same as that of the instant application. The purpose of Chalmers et al is to allow a user to compare pre-printed color blocks with subsequently printed adjacent color blocks in order to ensure that the color quality is acceptably matched, see column 2, lines 6-27. This is also Applicant's purpose as disclosed at page 2, lines 14-20 and page 4, lines 2-6 of the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 1, 2, and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 and 12 and their dependencies are directed to a sheet of paper with printed color data which are per se not statutory. Data that is pre-printed in certain regions of a page is merely text or image data on a substrate, and the combination does not impart functionality. The printed matter (color bar) in no way depends on the paper, and the paper does not depend on the printed matter.

Chalmers et al disclose the claimed invention except for the specific arrangement (location on the paper, i.e., a marginal area) and/or content of indicia (printed matter) set forth in the claims. It has been held that when the claimed printed matter is not functionally related to the substrate it will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability. *In re Gulack*, 217 USPQ 401, (CAFC 1983). The fact that the content of the printed matter placed on the substrate may render the device more convenient by providing an individual with a wider region to place printed image content does not alter the functional relationship. Mere support by the substrate for the printed matter is not the kind of functional relationship necessary for patentability.

The examiner asserts that the cited prior art standardization paper of figure 1 (Chalmers et al) comprising the two regions (blank and marginal) is the same structure claimed by applicant and the sole difference is in the area of placement of the printed material. Thus, there is no novel and unobvious functional relationship between the printed matter (e.g., color bars) and the substrate (e.g. sheet of paper) which is required for patentability.

Accordingly, there being no functional relationship of the printed material to the substrate, as noted above, there is no reason to give patentable weight to the content of the printed matter which, by itself, is non-statutory subject matter. Applicant is asked to review 706.03(a) of the MPEP, which states: a mere arrangement of printed matter, though seemingly a "manufacture," is rejected as not being within the statutory classes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2 and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chalmers et al (USPN 5,953,990 A).

Regarding claim 1, Chalmers et al disclose a sheet of paper (master chart sheet, col. 2, lines 6-9 and see figures 1 and 2) comprising:

(a) a blank region (the blank region where the "lady images" 2 in figure 1 and 2A in figure 2 will be printed, col. 9-10) for subsequent printing of a content image portion (image portion 2A of figure 2); and

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(b) a marginal region outside of the blank region (the region outside of Chalmers et al's blank region), the marginal region including one or more standard color bars pre-printed thereon (color blocks 1 that are printed on the master chart of figure 1), and each of the one or more standard color bars having a plurality of color blocks (e.g., base colors), each color block reflecting a wavelength in the electromagnetic spectrum that represents a color selected from a color space (e.g., cyan, magenta, yellow, black), wherein the blank region (a) and the marginal region (b) constitute the entire surface area of one side of the sheet of paper (a + b).

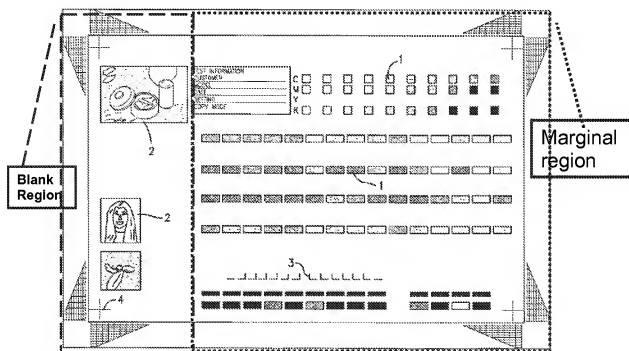


Figure 1 - Standardization Sheet of Chalmers et al

Regarding claim 2, Chalmers et al disclose the sheet of paper of claim 1 wherein marginal region further comprises one pre-printed standard color bar (a horizontal arrangement of color blocks 1 that are printed on the master chart of figure 1), the marginal region having a blank area adjacent to the pre-printed color bar for subsequent printing of a second color bar (a

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horizontal arrangement of color blocks 1A that will be printed as shown in figure 2, the completed result is shown in figure 3 wherein color blocks 1A are just below color blocks 1).

Regarding claim 10, Chalmers et al disclose a sheet of paper of claim 1 wherein the marginal region is a minor region of the sheet of paper and the blank region is a major region of the sheet of paper. The examiner asserts that the cited prior art standardization paper of figure 1 (Chalmers et al) comprising the two regions (blank and marginal) is the same structure claimed by applicant and the sole difference is in the area of placement of the printed material. Thus, there is no novel and unobvious functional relationship between the printed matter (e.g., color bars) and the substrate (e.g. sheet of paper) which is required for patentability.

Accordingly, there being no functional relationship of the printed material to the substrate, as noted above, there is no reason to give patentable weight to the content of the printed matter which, by itself, is non-statutory subject matter. Further, it is user judgment to consider the blank region as being a major region of importance and the marginal region as being a minor region of importance.

Regarding claim 11, Chalmers et al disclose a sheet of paper of claim 1 wherein the sheet of paper is proofing paper (Examiner reads proofing paper as Chalmers paper used for visual inspection. A proof is known in the art to be version of a document or color illustration produced specifically for the purpose of review prior to reproduction. A proof is also known in the art as a test sheet made to reveal errors or flaws, predict results on press and record how a printing job is intended to appear when finished. Chalmers et al satisfy the claim.).

Regarding claim 12, Chalmers et al disclose a sheet of paper comprising:

(a) a marginal region (the region outside of Chalmers et al's blank region) including one or more standard color bars (color blocks 1 that are printed on the master chart of figure 1) pre-printed thereon, and each of the one or more standard color bars having a plurality of color

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blocks (e.g., base colors), each color block reflecting a wavelength in the electromagnetic spectrum that represents a color selected from a color space (e.g., cyan, magenta, yellow, black); and

(b) a blank region (the blank region where the "lady images" 2 in figure 1 and 2A in figure 2 will be printed, col. 9-10) outside of the marginal region for subsequent printing of a content image portion (image portion 2A of figure 2), wherein the marginal region (a) and the blank region (b) constitute the entire surface area of one side of the sheet of paper (a + b).

Regarding claim 13, Chalmers et al disclose a sheet of paper of claim 12 wherein the marginal region further comprises one pre-printed standard color bar (a horizontal arrangement of color blocks 1 that are printed on the master chart of figure 1), the marginal region having a blank area adjacent to the pre-printed color bar for subsequent printing of a second color bar (a horizontal arrangement of color blocks 1A that will be printed as shown in figure 2, the completed result is shown in figure 3 wherein color blocks 1A are just below color blocks 1).

Regarding claim 14, Chalmers et al disclose a sheet of paper of claim 12 wherein the marginal region is a minor region of the sheet of paper and the blank region is a major region of the sheet of paper. The examiner asserts that the cited prior art standardization paper of figure 1 (Chalmers et al) comprising the two regions (blank and marginal) is the same structure claimed by applicant and the sole difference is in the area of placement of the printed material. Thus, there is no novel and unobvious functional relationship between the printed matter (e.g., color bars) and the substrate (e.g. sheet of paper) which is required for patentability.

Accordingly, there being no functional relationship of the printed material to the substrate, as noted above, there is no reason to give patentable weight to the content of the printed matter which, by itself, is non-statutory subject matter. Further, it is user judgment to

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consider the blank region as being a major region of importance and the marginal region as being a minor region of importance.

Regarding claim 15, Chalmers et al disclose a sheet of paper of claim 12 wherein the sheet of paper is proofing paper. (Examiner reads proofing paper as Chalmers paper used for visual inspection. A proof is known in the art to be version of a document or color illustration produced specifically for the purpose of review prior to reproduction. A proof is also known in the art as a test sheet made to reveal errors or flaws, predict results on press and record how a printing job is intended to appear when finished. Chalmers et al satisfy the claim.).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thomas Lett
AU 2625

/Mark K Zimmerman/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625